

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV
April 23, 2002

Members Present: Laura Helems, Robin Ayers, Dee Bodkins, Ophelia Coats, Karen Davis, Luann Decker, Jeannie Elkins, Rosanna Hohman, Ken Kennedy, Kelly Kirk, Richard Merryman, Pat Moss, Libby Nester, Bob Peck, James Qualls, Michael Sharley, Kevin Smith, Jerri Stephens, Cheryl Vega, Andrea Workman, Mary Ellen Zeppuhar

Members Absent: Christy Bishop, Ann Burds, Tim Derico, James Farrar, Jeanne Grubb, John Hunneshagen, Debrin Jenkins (voting by proxy), Frank Kirkland, Jim Plitt, Ann Stottlemeyer, Peter Triplett, Barbara White

Staff Present: Steve Wiseman, Jim Cremeans, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Linda Higgs, Betsy Southall

Guests: Debbie Mitchem, Mike O'Brien

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Laura Helems, Chairperson.

Laura introduced Bob Peck, Executive Director of the WV Advocates.

Members of the Council and guests introduced themselves.

Expense Account forms and Change of Address forms were distributed.

Laura announced that Mike O'Brien has had to resign from the Council because, as directed by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, his employment with the WV Advocates creates dual and possibly conflicting representation of the Protection and Advocacy agency on the Council.

Jeannie announced that the state APSE conference will be held May 14-16 at the Charleston Marriot.

Approval of the January 22, 2002 Minutes:

Kevin Smith made and Karen Davis seconded a motion to approve the January 22, 2002 Minutes

Cheryl Vega asked about a statement regarding the Eastern Panhandle Training Center. She wanted to make sure that Frank Kirkland had investigated Richard's concerns about day programs, mentioned on Page 2 of the January Minutes. Cheryl also wanted to make sure that Jim Plitt had

done the research he agreed to do at the January meeting regarding clarification of “need” and “benefit” mentioned on Page 3 of the January Minutes.

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

Legislative Report: Jan updated the Council on the activities of the 2002 Legislative Session. She reviewed the List of Bills contained in the Council packet. She reported that the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Program was funded with no changes through July 1, 2003. Other disability programs did not gain any funding. She reported that a mental health parity bill was finally passed and that some of the accessible parking legislation was updated.

Pat Moss discussed the legislative changes in the Birth-to-Three Program, particularly funding changes.

Laura asked about issues that had recently been raised regarding children who were covered under Birth-to-Three and the Waiver program. Pat said that there was a misunderstanding among some of her colleagues and that there is no conflict. She anticipates that a joint policy statement will be issued in the future.

Jan discussed a resolution for a study regarding the feasibility for a Medicaid Buy-In for people with disabilities who wish to become employed and retain their Medicaid coverage.

Kevin Smith mentioned that a bill passed regarding motorized wheelchairs in which users can be on streets. Motorized wheelchair users are defined as “pedestrians,” not “motorists.”

SFY 2003 Budget Proposal: Steve and Laura gave a brief overview of the State FY 2003 Budget Proposal. Steve stated that he felt the Council was in good financial shape.

Laura suggested and the Council agreed to discuss the grant renewals and continuations first before taking action on the budget. The subject was tabled until after the grants were discussed.

Grant Continuation Requests: Steve discussed the continuation requests from Community Access, MSCIL, Fair Shake Network and NCJW. He gave an overview of how each grant was used and the projects on which they were working.

- Community Access \$ 160,501
- MSCIL \$ 107,175
- Fair Shake Network \$ 25,000
- NCJW \$ 5,000

Cheryl Vega made and Kevin Smith seconded a motion to approve all of the continuation grants at the FY 2002 levels.

Motion carried. James Qualls abstained.

Grant Renewal Requests: Steve gave an overview of the grant projects and work of each of the grantees who were requesting renewals, including:

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| • Marshall Univ. Research Corp. – Pos. Behav. Sup. in the Schools Project | \$ 65,635 |
| • Northern WV Center for Indep. Lvng. – Parent Empow. Network Project | \$ 29,000 |
| • RESA VII and Harrison Co. PERC – “Me and Life After High School” | \$ 6,650 |
| • Monongalia Co. Schools – Inclusive Head Start | \$ 7,000 |
| • Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center - Child Care Needs Study | \$ 4,712 |
| • Nicholas Co. Schools – Student Employment Training Program | \$ 25,200 |
| • Arc of Harrison Co. - Home of your Own Project | \$ 10,000 |
| • WV APSE - Work4WV Task Force | \$ 9,198 |

Richard Merryman made and Ophelia Coats seconded a motion to renew the grants at the SFY2002 levels.

It was noted that the study being conducted by the Easter Seals of Ohio Co. is a family survey, not a study of the physical accessibility of the facilities.

Motion carried. Pat Moss and Jeannie Elkins abstained.

Andrea Workman made and Kevin Smith seconded a motion to approve the budget.

Motion carried.

Proposal for 2003 Co-sponsored Conferences: Steve gave an overview of the co-sponsored conferences. He stated that these conferences are handled through MSCIL. Conferences include:

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| • Disability Caucus | \$ 3,000 |
| • Autism Society of WV Conference | \$ 2,500 |
| • Community Connections | \$ 3,000 |
| • Self-Advocacy Conference | \$ 1,000 |
| • Fair Shake Network Legislative Training | \$ 3,000 |
| • PATHS Conference | \$ 2,000 |
| • WV APSE State Conference | \$ 1,000 |

Steve stated that the majority of the funding would be used for stipends for people to attend the conferences, and that the money is already in the budget that has been approved. He also stated that the Executive Committee has suggested that the Council fund mini-conferences around the state. He cited a mini conference previously held in Wood County in which groups from around WV and surrounding areas were included.

Steve asked if the Council would like to allot funds specifically for mini conferences.

Kevin asked for clarification on the allotted amount. Steve said that \$5,000 would be sufficient.

Kevin stated that he felt \$10,000 should be allotted.

Robin Ayers said that she felt that the amounts should be open-ended rather than allotting specific amounts for conferences across the board.

Michael Sharley suggested not using the word “conference” as it implied a large event. Steve suggested using the “training opportunities” as a substitute.

Jeannie Elkins suggested \$5,000 since it is a new program and a discussion ensued. Cheryl commented that the Council could allot more funds at a subsequent meeting if needed.

Andrea made and Ophelia seconded a motion to fund \$15,500 for state conferences.

Motion carried. Luann, Jeannie, and James abstained.

Robin made and Ophelia seconded a motion to allot \$5,000 for local training opportunities.

Motion carried.

Steve recognized Jeannie Elkins for her hard work as the President of the Autism Society. He also recognized Luann as her successor.

The Effects on People of the Closure of Some Day Services:

Mike O'Brien of the WV Advocates gave a brief presentation to the Council regarding what he has been observing in sheltered workshops and day programs around the state. He expressed his concern about what is happening to people because of the closure of day services. He said he feels that people are being shuffled aside and being left without supports. He said that he does not feel that people receive appropriate transitional support when they leave these programs. He said he feels that some of the sheltered workshops/day programs are positive environments. He feels that people are not being given a choice in what happens to them when these facilities close.

Richard stated that the workshops are supposed to be used for training and people are being left behind and not getting out in the community.

Mike restated that he did not feel that supports were being put into place before the closing of a day program/sheltered workshop and a discussion ensued.

Andrea Workman stated that programs and supports should be individualized for people and a discussion ensued.

Michael Sharley stated that he felt people should be given the opportunity to leave the workshops and day programs, but they should be allowed to make the decision for themselves whether to leave or to stay.

Kevin said he felt that there were positive relationships that could be built within the workshop.

Steve cautioned about the concept of “choice.” He stated that people have been left in long-term care facilities in the name of choice.

Mary Ellen stated that some of the progressive workshops do provide positive (inclusive) environments. She stated that there was a continuum – some workshops are very good and some are very bad. She said if people are going to support getting people out of the workshops, then they must also support community supports.

Information Updates:

Core Indicators Project (CIP): Jim Cremeans gave an update on the Core Indicators Project. He stated that it was a satisfaction survey based on 400 interviews. Currently, they only have about 150 of the interviews completed, and that it may be a result of having started the grant late. The Council will be getting a report from the Human Services Research Institute within 4 months of submitting the information.

Luann Decker began a discussion of the interview process. She stated that the individuals being interviewed are all very positive about the process.

Jim stated that he did not think that the Council would be going beyond the initial interview period, and he is hoping to get 200 interviews.

Inclusion Award: Jeannie Elkins began a discussion about the inclusion award packets that went out statewide in March. She thanked Dee Bodkins and Cheryl Vega for their hard work. Thus far, they have received 13 nominations.

Jim stated that the Education Committee will review each application and the Committee is still fine-tuning the selection process. Potential winners will have an on-site visit by a Committee member.

Jeannie stated that they are tentatively going to make the award in September, but nothing has been finalized.

Cheryl asked if all schools nominated would be acknowledged for their inclusive programs that led to nomination.

Olmstead, Hartley/Medley Status, Ombudsman Position: Steve stated that there is a prevailing attitude that Hartley/Medley cases are closed. He gave an overview of the significance of these court cases to community based services. He stated that Olmstead is, in many cases, reflective of the Hartley/Medley cases, but on a much broader scale. Steve stated that he has some concerns

about an emerging pattern of comments regarding deinstitutionalization. He alerted the Council to the fact that there is a real need for strong advocacy in getting Olmstead implemented.

Steve stated that David Sudbeck is now the Ombudsman for Behavioral Health.

Jeannie asked where the DHHR is going, based on public comment by Secretary Nusbaum and Commissioner Loverien. Steve stated that Commissioner Lovrien has recently made comments in support of providing services and choice to people rather than necessarily supporting the success of providers.

July 2001 Council Retreat Progress: Laura gave an overview of what was suggested at the July 2001 retreat by Council members. She reviewed the suggestions that have already been implemented and stated that the Executive Committee and Staff are working on implementation of others.

February Executive Committee Retreat Information: Laura gave an overview of the issues that were brought to the table at the Executive Committee Retreat. She addressed a primary concern that some committees are not working effectively. She said that the Executive Committee suggested organizing small work groups to work on projects rather than over-burdening full committees. She said that, as a result of these discussions, the Staff had broken down the 5 yr plan into projects and goals that would be suited for small work groups.

Jim gave an overview of the tasks outlined in the 5-year plan. He organized the activities based on strategies reported to the ADD for implementing the goals, such as research or demonstration projects.

Laura suggested utilizing “power teams” to accomplish many of the tasks outlined in the 5-year plan. She cited the PIP workgroup as an example of a successful work group. She suggested utilizing outside “experts” as part of these workgroups to accomplish these tasks. She stated that Members did not have to be on the committee “owning” a task to be part of a workgroup. Workgroups would be based on personal interest in a project.

Steve said that these workgroups will focus the Council on accomplishing the tasks outlined in the 5-year plan. He reiterated that it does not eliminate the committees, but will allow Members to focus their attention on what is interesting and of primary importance to them. Committees and Staff will work on plan activities not addressed by the small workgroups.

Dee Bodkins pointed out that each Council Member comes to the Council with specific expertise and interests. She suggested the Staff target members for specific projects and approach members to work on specific projects, and then allow members to accept or decline. She said she felt that pre-organization by Staff would be instrumental to workgroup success.

Informational Brochures: Laura reviewed the current brochures and other printed materials being produced by the Council.

Partners In Policymaking (PIP): Jerri Stephens outlined some of the activities of the PIP workgroup, including a tray liner designed for McDonalds as a promotional activity for the group. Council Members discussed some potential public relations activities to gain public awareness.

James asked if former Partners would be asked to become part of the Partners Training. Jan stated that it is a possibility.

Program Analysis of Service Systems (PASS): Linda Higgs gave an overview of the PASS Training that is scheduled for May 5-10 in Martinsburg, WV. She stated that the program has been revised for WV and for the first time, participants will be evaluating programs in different states. She announced that all of the training slots have been filled.

Other Business:

Laura reminded Members to return the expense forms. She also reminded them to make reservations in a timely manner for the July 16, 2002 meeting in Summersville.

James Qualls said that SILC and other groups would be sending out information on the Disability Caucus taking place in Charleston July 19-22, 2002

Pat Moss said that there have been provider changes with Birth-To-Three in several counties. Resa VIII will be taking over services in counties covered by Appalachian Community Health Center, Inc. Families will only have a brief disruption in services during the transition. The program has also decided to discontinue their relationship with Shawnee Hills. River Valley will assume their responsibilities.

Mike Sharley gave the Council an update regarding SSI and supported employment reasonable accommodations.

Adjournment:

Kevin Smith made and James Qualls seconded a motion for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Attachment: *SFY 2003 Grants' Funding Awards*